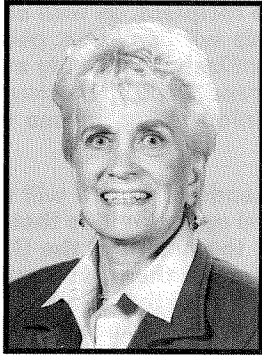


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



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MICHIGAN PREPARES FOR WEST NILE VIRUS SEASON In May, the Michigan Department of Community Health reported the first WNV-positive bird of the year, reminding us to take precautions during summer months to protect ourselves and our families from this infectious disease. WNV is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and/or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord). To prevent the risk of exposure to WNV, always use insect repellent to protect against mosquito bites. Mosquito populations can be reduced by eliminating any standing water that has collected, such as in the bases of flower pots and old tires. Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, so draining these water spots from around the home can help protect you and your family in the months ahead.

DID YOU KNOW? West Nile Virus was first discovered in the U.S. in 1999 in New York City. Since that time, WNV has been detected in humans, animals, and mosquitoes in 47 states from coast to coast.

ATTORNEY GENERAL WARNS SENIORS OF MEDICARE SCAM Attorney General Mike Cox announced news about con artists who are targeting Michigan seniors with telephone calls claiming to offer Medicare assistance. The callers are actually identity thieves seeking valuable personal information including bank account, credit card, and social security numbers. The Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division reported that it received complaints from seniors who have received calls from individuals offering to assist them with enrolling in the Medicare prescription drug benefit plan and who claim that the senior's Medicare card will expire. A detailed Consumer Alert on telemarketing fraud, including the new Medicare prescription drug benefit scam, is available on the Attorney General's website at www.michigan.gov/ag, or by calling toll-free at 1-877-765-8388. For more information on preventing identity theft, please visit the website, or call toll-free at 1-877-765-8388, or write to: Consumer Protection Division, P.O. Box 30213-7713, Lansing, MI 48909.

STATE'S AIR QUALITY INFORMATION AVAILABLE VIA E-MAIL UPDATES The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality announced a new program that offers a quick and easy way to obtain current air quality information. The program, EnviroFlash, reports the predicted Air Quality Index (AQI) for the following day. The automated message can be sent via e-mail or text messages and provides a forecast notice at health levels selected by the recipient, as well as air quality "Action Day" advisories when declared. This information is especially helpful for people with children; people who work or exercise outdoors; and those with heart or lung conditions, such as asthma. EnviroFlash is currently available to people who live in or near Detroit, Ann Arbor, Flint, Saginaw, Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland, and Traverse City. To learn more about EnviroFlash and how to access air quality information, please visit www.michigan.gov/deqair and click on the EnviroFlash icon.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTINUE TO THREATEN GREAT LAKES This summer, thousands of people will visit Michigan's Great Lakes. Residents and out-of-state visitors alike will enjoy the many recreational opportunities that the world's largest source of freshwater has to offer. Aquatic invasive species are still threatening the health of the Great Lakes and it is critical that all of those who enjoy the use of our waters do their part to help protect them. An aquatic invasive species is defined as a waterborne, non-native organism that threatens the livelihood of native species, the ecological stability of impacted waters, or threatens a commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activity. Preventative measures to help combat the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the Great Lakes include inspecting watercrafts and recreational equipment before leaving a lake, removing any vegetation that may be attached to such equipment, and disposing of any unused bait. For more information about the threat of aquatic invasive species and to learn more about ways to protect the Great Lakes, please visit www.protectyourwaters.net.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov